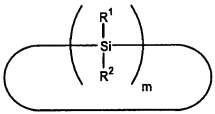
IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element comprising at least a top surface layer containing a polysilane, wherein the polysilane comprises a cyclic polysilane represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different from each other and each represents a ~~hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group,~~ an alkyl group, ~~an alkoxy group, an alkenyl group,~~ a cycloalkyl group, ~~a cycloalkyloxy group, a cycloalkenyl group,~~ an aryl group, ~~an aryloxy group,~~ or an aralkyl group, ~~an aralkyloxy group, or a silyl group;~~ at least one hydrogen atom of the alkyl group, ~~the alkoxy group, the alkenyl group,~~ the cycloalkyl group, ~~the cycloalkyloxy group, the cycloalkenyl group,~~ the aryl group, ~~the aryloxy group,~~ or the aralkyl group, ~~the aralkyloxy group, or the silyl group may have a substituent~~ may be substituted with an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group;

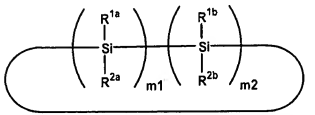
"m" denotes an integer of not less than 4; and

R^1 and R^2 may vary depending on the coefficient "m", respectively.

2. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein, in the formula (1), at least one of R^1 and R^2 represents an aryl group, and "m" is an integer of 4 to 10.

3. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein, in the formula (1), R^1 and R^2 each represents a phenyl group, and "m" is an integer of 4 to 8.

4. (*Currently Amended*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic polysilane is represented by the following formula (1a):



(1a)

wherein R^{1a} and R^{2a} each represents an aryl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with analkyl group;

R^{1b} and R^{2b} are the same or different from each other and each represents an alkyl group which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl group or a C_{6-10}aryl group, a cycloalkyl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with a linear or branched C_{1-4}alkyl group, a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl group or a C_{6-10}aryl group, or an aryl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with an alkyl group;

provided that both R^{1b} and R^{2b} are not coincidentally an aryl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with an alkyl group;

m1 denotes an integer of not less than 1;

m2 denotes 0 or an integer of not less than 1; and

m1+m2 denotes an integer of not less than 4.

5. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 4, wherein R^{1a} and R^{2a} each represents a C_{6-10}aryl group;

a combination of R^{1b} and R^{2b} is (1) a combination of a C_{1-4}alkyl group and a C_{1-4}alkyl group, (2) a combination of a C_{1-4}alkyl group and a C_{6-10}aryl group, (3) a combination of a C_{1-4}alkyl group and a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl group, or (4) a combination of a C_{6-10}aryl group and a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl group.

6. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 4, wherein m1 is an integer of 1 to 10, m2 is an integer of 0 to 10, and m1+m2 is 4 to 12.

7. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 4, wherein m1 is an integer of 1 to 8, m2 is an integer of 0 to 8, and m1+m2 is 4 to 10.

8. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the polysilane is a polysilane mixture containing a cyclic polysilane.

9. (*Currently Amended*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, which comprises at least both of an electroconductive support and a photosensitive layer, wherein the photosensitive layer comprises at least the following components:

a charge-generating agent[[,]];

a charge-transporting agent[[,]]; and

a binder resin.

10. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 9, wherein the photosensitive layer comprises a charge-generating layer, and a charge-transporting layer formed on the charge-generating layer.

11. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 9, wherein a surface protection layer containing the polysilane is formed on the photosensitive layer.

12. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the content of the cyclic polysilane is 0.01 to 10% by weight relative to the whole components of the top surface layer.

13. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the content of the cyclic polysilane is 0.01 to 5% by weight relative to the whole components of the top surface layer.

14. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 8, wherein the top surface layer comprises an outer surface layer of the photosensitive layer or a surface protection layer of the photosensitive layer, and the proportion of a cyclic homo- or copolysilane having at least a diarylsilane unit is 0.01 to 3% by weight relative to whole components of the top surface layer.

15. (*Original*) A method for producing an electrophotographic photosensitive element recited in claim 1, which comprises forming at least a photosensitive layer on an electroconductive support to obtain the electrophotographic photosensitive element, wherein a cyclic polysilane is incorporated into at least a top surface of the electrophotographic photosensitive element.

16. (*Currently Amended*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element composition, which comprises a component for an outer surface layer of a photosensitive layer or a component for a surface protection layer of a photosensitive layer, and a cyclic polysilane recited in claim 1.

17. (*Original*) A composition according to claim 16, which comprises a binder, a cyclic polysilane, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of a charge-generating agent and a charge-transporting agent.

18. (*Original*) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the binder comprises a polycarbonate-series resin.

19. (*Original*) An electrophotographic cartridge, which is provided with an electrophotographic photosensitive element recited in claim 1.

20. (*Original*) An electrophotographic apparatus, which is provided with an electrophotographic photosensitive element recited in claim 1.